

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 05425 121147 Z

43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 M-03 A-01 OPR-02 SY-10 AID-20 OC-06

SR-02 ORM-03 SCS-03 SCA-01 RSR-01 /102 W
----- 046099

O 121046 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2085

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5425

DEPT ALSO PASS USINT CAIRO

SITREP 15

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, LE

SUBJ: INTERNAL SECURITY SITREP 15

1. SITUATION AS OF 1000 Z REMAINS QUIET IN BEIRUT AND ELSEWHERE IN
LEBANON, ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND FROM ARMY G-2 THAT TWO SEPARATE
ACTIONS TOOK PLACE IN SOUTHERN AND EASTERN SECTORS DURING PAST 18
HOURS. LEBANESE AIRCRAFT BOMBED AND ROCKETED FEDAYEEN
CONCENTRATIONS IN VICINITY HAM (3352 N-3612 E) AROUND 1500-1600 Z
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 05425 121147 Z

MAY 11, AND CUSTOMS POST AT SHADRAH (3437 N-3619 E) ON MAIN BEKAA ROAD LEADING TO HOMS IN SYRIA CAME UNDER INTENSIVE BOMBARDMENT BY ROCKETS, MORTARS AND MACHINE- GUNS FEW HOURS LATER AT 2200 Z. ARMY REPLIED TO THIS FIRE AND FINALLY SILENCED IT, BUT NOT BEFORE LOSING ONE CUSTOMS OFFICIAL KIA AND 9 MEN (6 ARMY, 2 INTERNAL SECURITY AND 1 CUSTOMS) WOUNDED.

2. UNRWA HEADQUARTERS CONFIRMS IT SENT PRELIMINARY REPORT TO UN IN NEW YORK THAT SOME 50 REFUGEE CIVILIANS KILLED AND 130 WOUNDED IN BEIRUT CAMPS SINCE FIGHTING BEGAN MAY 2. ADDS, HOWEVER, THAT THIS ESTIMATE HIGHLY TENTATIVE SINCE AGENCY HAS YET TO OBTAIN FULL INFO RE SITUATION INSIDE CAMPS, AND COMGEN REPORTEDLY FURIOUS THAT SOMEONE IN UN HEADQUARTERS RELEASED HIS REPORT. UNRWA OFFICIALS HERE CONTINUE EMPHASIZE THAT FULL EXTENT OF DAMAGE INSIDE CAMPS STILL NOT KNOWN, ALTHOUGH THEY ESTIMATE JISR AL BASHA, SHATILA AND BURJ AL BARAJNEH, IN THAT ORDER, AS HARDEST HIT.

3. AIRPORT WAS OPENED AROUND 0700 Z AND AIR TRAFFIC BEGAN SOON AFTER. CURFEW LIFTED TODAY FROM 0800 TO 1930 LOCAL.

4. PRESS CENSORSHIP CONTINUES STRICTLY ENFORCED, TO POINT WHERE LOCAL MOSCOW- BACKED COMMUNIST WEEKLY ANNOUNCED IT WILL NOT APPEAR TODAY OWING TO CENSORSHIP OF ITS ENTIRE CONTENTS. CENSOR'S HAND WAS PARTICULARLY EVIDENT IN PRESS TREATMENT OF MEMO SUBMITTED MAY 11 TO PRES FRANGIE BY RASHID KARAME ON BEHALF OF MOSLEM AND LEFTIST NOTABLES, INCLUDING KAMAL JUMBLATT. WE GATHER IT CONTAINED SUCH DEMANDS AS IMMEDIATE END TO STATE OF EMERGENCY, FULL RESPECT FOR CAIRO ACCORDS, FORMATION OF NEW GOVT WITH GREATER MOSLEM PARTICIPATION, AND ESTABLISHMENT OF GREATER CONFESSIONAL EQUILIBRIUM AMONG ARMY LEADERSHIP. (WE UNDERSTAND FRANGIE REACTED UNFAVORABLY TO KARAME'S MEMO.) CENSORS DID NOT TOUCH GOL- INSPIRED TRIAL BALLON ON AGREEMENT WITH FEDAYEEN WHICH APPEARED TODAY IN RIGHT- WING FALANGIST AL AMAL. LATTER CITED GOL CONDITIONS AS (A) ELIMINATION OF 3 BEIRUT REFUGEE CAMPS (DBAYEH, TAL ZAATAR, AND BURJ AL BARAJNEH) AND TRANSFERRAL OF THEIR INHABITANTS TO LESS SENSITIVE AREAS; (B) REMOVAL OF HEAVY WEAPONS FROM SABRA/ SHATILA AREA; (C) LIMITING NUMBER OF FEDAYEEN IN LEBANON TO THAT EXISTING PRIOR TO NOV 1969 CAIRO AGREEMENT; AND (C) CESSATION OF FEDAYEEN TRAINING AND WEAPONS STOCKPILING IN CAMPS.

5. MEANWHILE, PRES FRANGIE'S CONSULTATIONS WITH LEBANESE AND ARAB
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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 05425 121147 Z

LEADERS CONTINUE. IN ADDITION TO SEEING KARAME AND DRUZE RELIGIOUS LEADER MAY 11, HE MET WITH FORMER PRES GHAMOUN, FORMER FONMIN CHARLES MALIK AND FALANGIST CHIEF PIERRE GEMAYEL, ALL OF

WHOM MADE PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF GOL POSITION. VISITS BY
OTHER NOTABLES TO PRESIDENTIAL PALACE WILL CONTINUE TODAY AND
SUNDAY.

6. EMBASSY PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS STILL SAFE, AS ARE MEMBERS
AMERICAN COMMUNITY WITH EXCEPTION ONE MISSING JOURNALIST
WHO REPORTEDLY HELD BY FEDAYEEN AND WHOM GOL TRYING LOCATE AND
HAVE FREED.
HOUGHTON

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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NMAFVVZCZ

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